## Report of the Department of Veterans' Services

The past year was extremely busy for the Department of Veterans' Services. A record number of veterans and/or their dependents were assisted with the processing and obtainment of benefits to which they were entitled.

Elderly veterans and/or their dependents were assisted with an array of state and federal financial or medical benefits. A priority was placed on ensuring that they had sufficient heat and food as well as access to outside activities. Younger veterans were temporarily assisted financially as well as provided with educational and employment advice and referrals.

The Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services has been extremely pro-active in assisting homeless veterans and their families. During the past year this department provided temporary housing and access to services which led to permanent placement for several Randolph veterans and their families.

The Iraq & Afghanistan Memorial Wall once again traveled to the James Hurley Senior & Veterans' Center-this moving and emotional display was well-attended by veterans and their families from across the South Shore.

The Randolph Veterans' Council sponsored the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual George Lovering memorial recognition ceremony on Flag Day at the Lovering memorial. An Honor Guard and members of the local VFW and AMVETS posts placed a wreath in acknowledgement of and admiration for Randolph's lone Medal of Honor recipient.

Veterans are people too and are often affected by many of the same issues as other Randolph residents. I would like to thank Town Manager Dave Murphy as well as the Randolph Town Council for their recognition of this fact as well as their continued support and willingness to address and resolve these issues in dignified and creative ways.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cunningham, Director Randolph Veterans' Services